

A large, spreading tree with dense green foliage stands in a lush green field. In the background, a small building is partially visible through the branches. A black dog is running across the grass in the foreground. The sky is blue with light clouds.

# Toller Trails – 8 walks from Toller Porcorum

**James Feaver and Neil Farmer**

**All proceeds to:**

- Toller Porcorum Church Roof
- Toller Porcorum Recreational Area Association
- Toller Porcorum Village Hall

**£6 by Email  
£8 printed**

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Jennifer Lowe (formerly Rolfe).

## Background

It has been written and produced by keen walkers James Feaver and Neil Farmer in April and May of 2020 during the Coronavirus pandemic. Its aim is to share a range of walks with other Toller residents – recent and longer term, younger and older. It also hopes to raise funds for three local good causes whose own fundraising efforts will be severely impacted at this time:

- Toller Porcorum Church Roof
- Toller Porcorum Recreational Area Association (Registered charity number 1104255)
- Toller Porcorum Village Hall (Registered charity number 203182)

The booklet is being distributed primarily in electronic format. It has been arranged so you can print out an individual walk to take with you. We provide a map and accompanying directions. **All walks start from the noticeboard by the telephone box.** We hope that the combination of directions and our maps will be adequate for you to find your way. The more detailed Ordnance Survey Explorer map is an ideal companion. All walks are on the “Cerne Abbas & Bere Regis” sheet, number 117.

In the walk summary table on page 4, the approximate length of route is given in miles and kilometres (km). Within the text just metres have been used. Metres and yards are nearly the same, 100 metres is 109 yards.

If you find an inaccuracy in the maps or text, you think the directions can be improved or have any other suggestions, please let us know by emailing [webmaster@tollervillagehall.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@tollervillagehall.co.uk). We will email revised copies to all purchasers of the electronic version.

## Disclaimer

While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of route directions, the authors cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions over changes in details given. The countryside is not static: hedges and fences can be removed, field boundaries can alter, footpaths can be re-routed and changes in ownership can result in the closure or diversion of some concessionary paths. Also, paths that are easy and pleasant for walking in fine conditions may become slippery muddy and difficult in wet weather.

## Walking During the Coronavirus Pandemic

With effect from 23rd March 2020 the Government has said that we must not leave our homes except for very limited purposes. The effects of these restrictions mean the following:

- People can undertake one form of exercise per day.
- People from the same household can exercise together or alone.
- Walking with people who do not live with you is not permitted.
- Exercise includes walking and should not involve unnecessary travelling.
- Walking in a group where the people do not live in the same household is NOT permitted.
- Avoid situations where your dog might approach and greet other people or dogs. This means walking your dog on a lead when in areas with other people.

**When out for exercise you should still adhere to social distancing requirements - keep at least two metres away from other people at all times.**

**Do follow the Government's instructions. Failure will mean more stringent rules in the future, which would probably jeopardise daily exercise including going for a walk.**

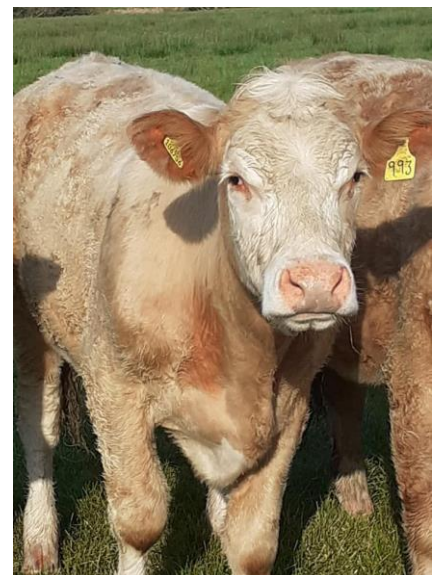
## Walking Safety

**Traffic** - Many of these routes will require some walking along roads. You should walk in single file and face oncoming traffic but cross over to the other side when approaching sharp bends on the right.

**Footwear** - Unless it is particularly dry, walking boots or wellies are recommended for most walks. Some routes do feature sections that seem to be wet and muddy whatever the weather. If a walk is entirely on hard surfaces, we will let you know.

**Farm Animals** – Here's some advice from [The Ramblers Association](#) on what to do when walking near cattle:

- Stop, look and listen on entering a field. Look out for any animals and watch how they are behaving, particularly bulls or cows with calves.
- If cattle are blocking a footpath, you are within your rights to find an alternative safe route; making sure you return to the footpath ASAP.
- Should cows come too close, wave your arms around. If you have a stick, wave it. Farmers herd their cattle all the time, so they expect to be moved around by people.
- Avoid getting between cows and their calves.
- Be prepared for cattle to react to your presence, especially if you have a dog with you.
- Move quickly and quietly, and if possible, walk around the herd.
- Remember to close gates behind you when walking through fields containing livestock.
- Don't hang onto your dog if you are threatened by cattle - let it go as the cattle will chase the dog and not you.
- Don't put yourself at risk by walking close to cattle.
- Don't make eye-to-eye contact with Cattle or Rams.
- Don't panic or run – most cattle will stop before they reach you. If they follow just walk on quietly.



**Things to take** - If you are going for one of the longer walks, depending upon the weather and time of year, you might like to carry a jumper, waterproofs, sun cream, mobile phone and something to eat and drink.

**“Buddy”**- You should leave details of your intended route and your estimated time of return with somebody who can alert the Police should you not be back at your estimated time. Take a mobile phone with you though be aware that you may not get coverage everywhere.

**Ticks** - If walking through vegetation, check for these tiny insects. Ticks can carry the bacteria responsible for Lyme disease. If not treated early on there could be a severe risk to health. NHS Choices produces [guidance](#) on ticks and Lyme disease.

**Adders** - Britain's only poisonous snake are occasionally seen such as on the old railway line. They will generally move away when they feel the vibrations of your approach.

## Walking with your Dog

**Dogs and Livestock** - Dogs accompanying walkers on public rights of way must be kept in sight and under close control and should not be allowed to stray off the path. Straying, or worrying of livestock is a serious offence and landowners can take direct action.

It is unfortunately too common that some dogs will worry or even attack livestock. For example, sheep may well move away to avoid dogs which may encourage the dogs to chase them. A loose or out of control dog could cause a pregnant ewe to miscarry or cause a new-born lamb to be separated from and rejected by its mother.

If you meet farm animals while out walking keep your dog on its lead and under close control and leave as much space between your dog and the animals as possible (don't worry too much about keeping to the line of the path).



If cattle do start acting aggressively (most common when calves are with them), it's best to let go of your dog and let it run away but most importantly you should leave the field as quickly as you can.

**Dog fouling** - Dog mess can spread some nasty infections and diseases and also harbours parasites that can harm farm animals especially cows and sheep. If your dog is caught short, please clear up its mess and dispose of it in a bin. Please do not leave it behind on the path or hang it on a tree in a bag. Follow the ['doggy doo' code](#).

**Dogs and other people (especially small children)** - It can be frightening, especially for small children, if dogs, apparently out of control, come bounding towards them - and even for adults who may not appreciate muddy paws and inquisitive noses as much as dog owners might. You may think your dog is just being friendly, but please consider other people and show respect for each other by putting your dog on its lead as soon as you see people approaching.

## The Countryside Code

### Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

### Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control.

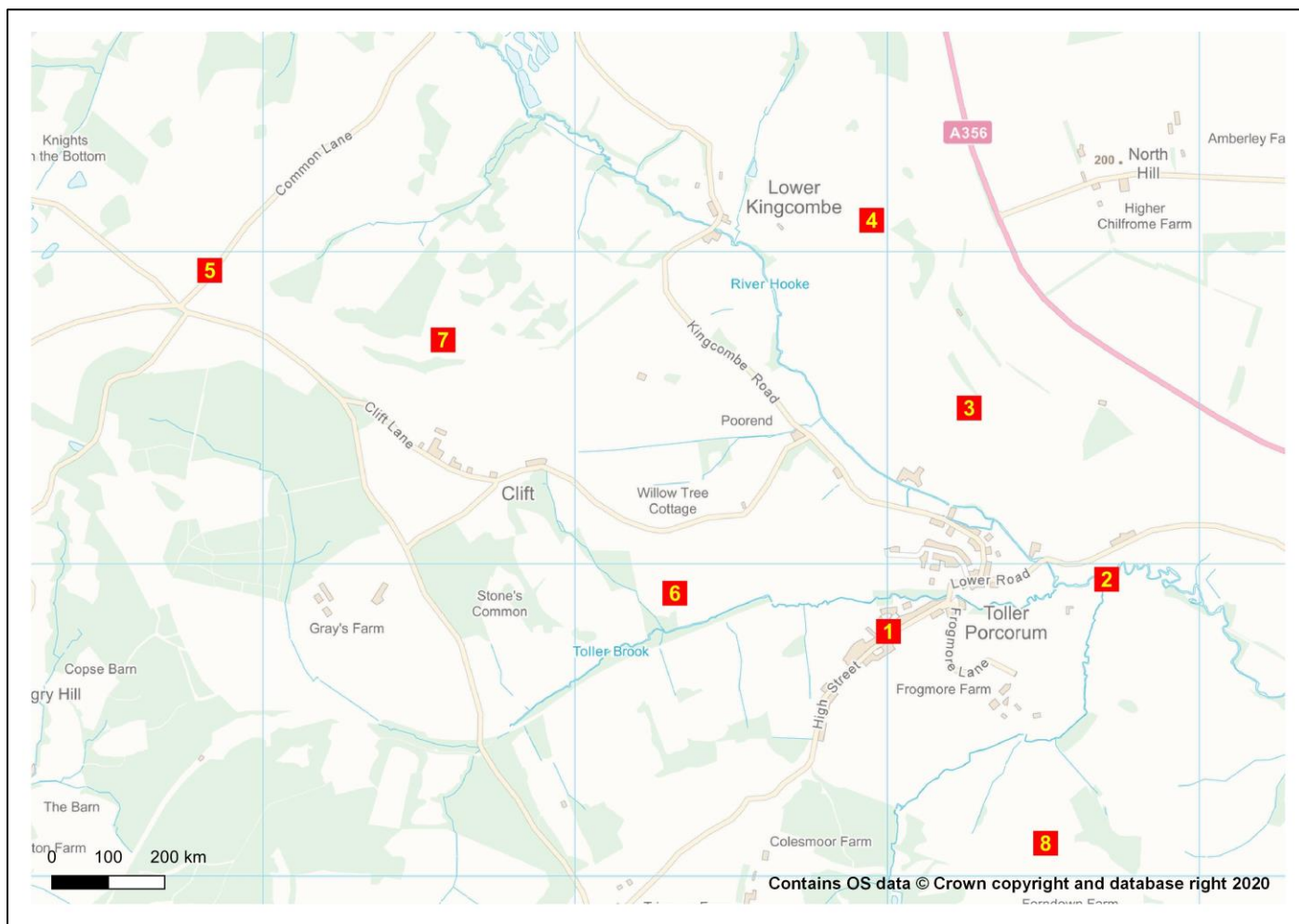
### Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.



## Key Map

All walks start from the noticeboard by the telephone box in the middle of the village. The numbers on this map give an idea where they go. See individual walk maps and descriptions for the routes.



## Walk Summary

No.	Walk Name	Distance	Comment
1	<b>Weather Vanes</b>	1.2 miles (2 km)	<i>This walk is on roads within the village so can easily be shortened. Departing via the old Toller Station, it connects five weather vanes – can you spot them all?</i>
2	<b>Branch Line</b>	1.1 miles (1.7 km)	<i>Along the old railway line towards Maiden Newton. Look out for where the Hooke and Toller rivers join, the badger sett, the old linesman hut and the snaking of the river across the floodplain.</i>
3	<b>Pope's Hill</b>	1.1 miles (1.8 km)	<i>Climb high above the village, a long steep climb and descent but your efforts will be rewarded. Choose a day with good visibility for this walk so you can see the sea! Do take binoculars if you have some.</i>
4	<b>Towards the Mighty Oak</b>	2.7 miles (4.3 km)	<i>Heading for The Mighty Oak you take in lovely fields and tracks. A climb is rewarded with far-reaching views, on a good day into Devon.</i>
5	<b>Mount Pleasant</b>	5.6 miles (8.9 km)	<i>A road-based tour of the Parish including Mount Pleasant and Higher Kingcombe. The road verges are delightful in Springtime. A shorter version can be made (4.3 miles (6.9 km)).</i>
6	<b>Billen's Stroll</b>	1.5 miles (2.4 km)	<i>Out across fields and back along the railway. A familiar route to many but always something to see – spring flowers in the woods, early summer wildflower meadows or autumn hedgerow fruit. Look out for Mr Miller's Horse Chestnut Tree in field three.</i>
7	<b>Kingcombe Meadows</b>	3.6 miles (5.8 km)	<i>A lovely circuit with plenty of variety – cross fields and follow lanes to Dorset Wildlife Trust's Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve before returning via Lower Kingcombe on part of the Jubilee Trail.</i>
8	<b>Towards Toller Fratrum</b>	2.6 miles (4.2 km)	<i>This route takes you through the little known Prestwood. This always has interest starting with Snowdrops, then Bluebells and other flowers; deer are often seen here. Return via another part of The Jubilee Trail.</i>

## Walk 1 – Weather Vanes

<b>Distance</b>	1.2 miles (2 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	A reasonably short walk with a gentle climb and descent. It is nearly all on road with short sections on gravel / grass and another on gravel. These can be avoided if required.
<i>This walk is on roads within the village so can easily be shortened. Departing via the old Toller Station, it connects five weather vanes – can you spot them all?</i>	

Weather vanes, wind vanes, or weathercocks are for showing the direction of the wind. They were invented in Ancient China and Greece long before weather forecasts. On this walk you will discover five of them.

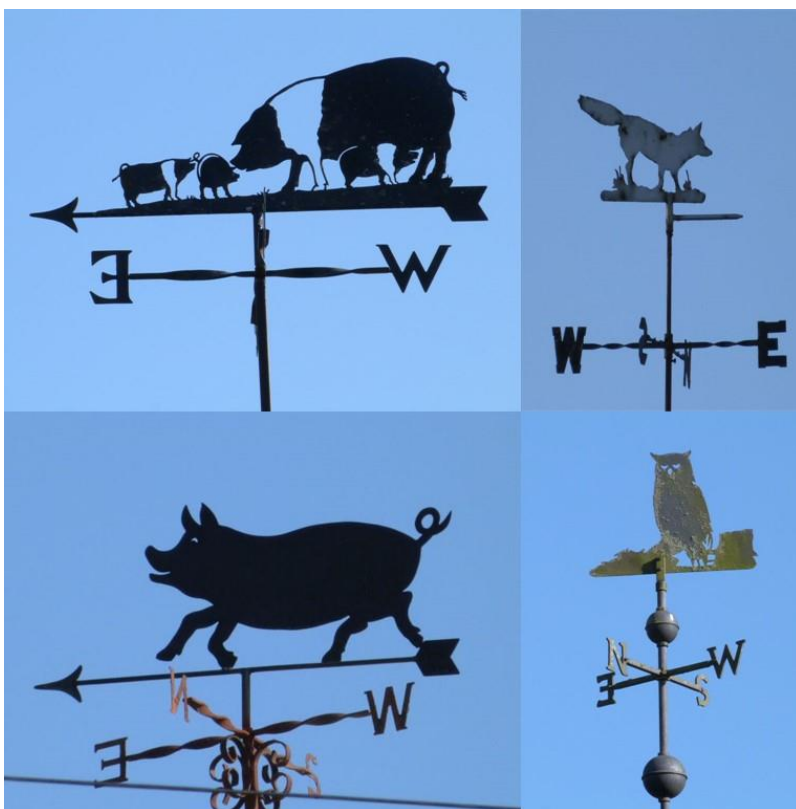
① With your back to the noticeboard turn right and immediately after the telephone box go down the slope. At the bottom go through the gap by the railings onto the platform of the disused Toller Station. Note the authentic features including the station sign and railings. It all looks quite different to the photograph at the bottom of this page from 1959.

Descend right from the platform heading across a grassy area to a large wooden gate onto Frogmore Lane. Pay attention to the sign on the other side of the gate! Bear right uphill onto the High Street and follow passing the Post Office and Old Mills, where the village sawmill was once located.

The first weather vane is on the left on top of a garage between the two bits of Barton Close ②. The next one is on Quorum Cottage on the right, this is the next house after Barton Farm ③. After a bit more climbing, another can be spotted on a roof at Bracken House, the last house in the village on the left ④. Turn here and return to the noticeboard ① but going over the railway bridge rather than through the old station again compare the view.

From the noticeboard cross the road to go up School Lane passing the Church on your left. Turn right down the byway after the large house “The Cottage” passing The Manor on your left. At the Kingcombe Road turn right, the next weather vane is not on a roof but high up on the left on top of an electricity pole in the garden of 2B ⑤.

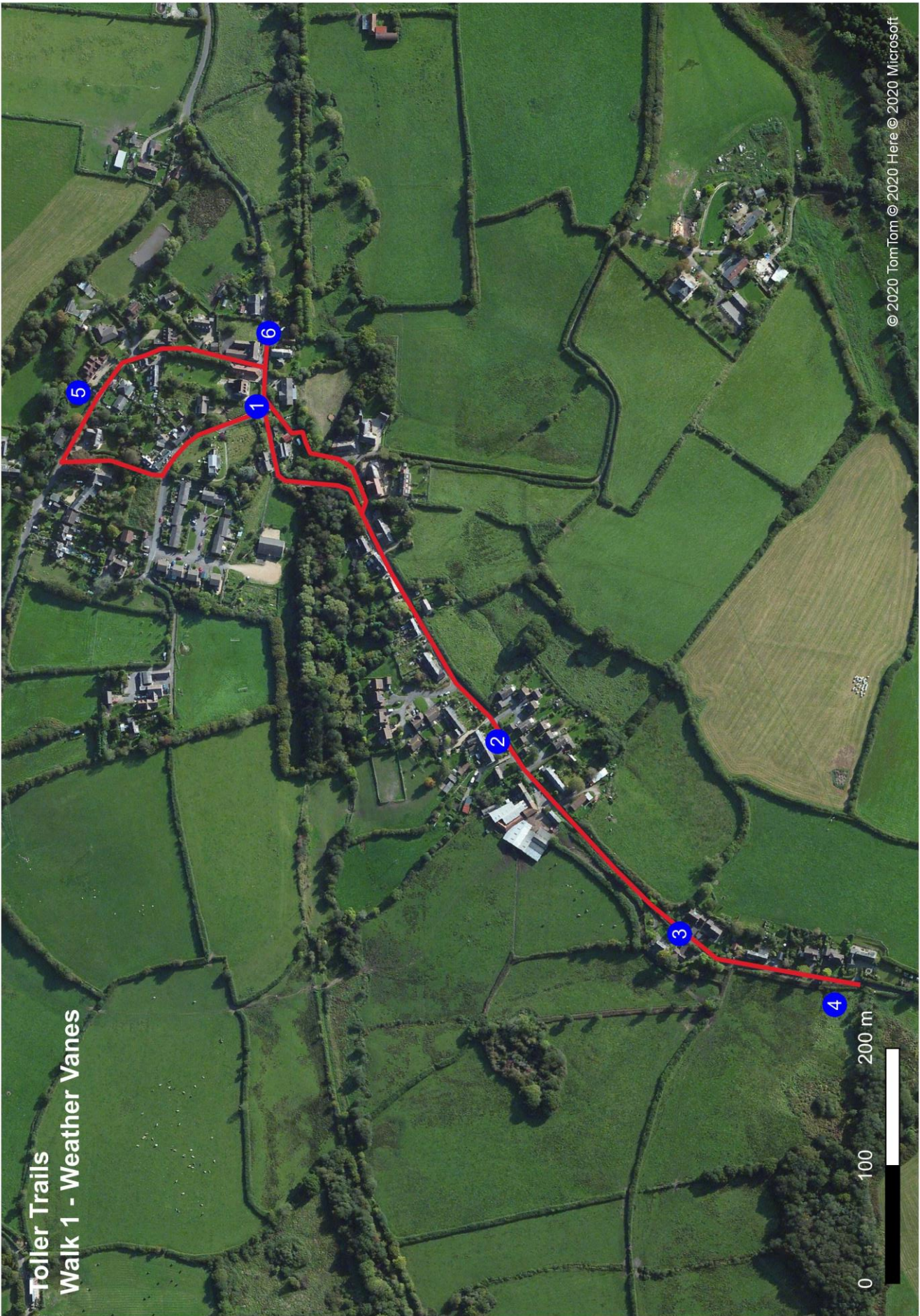
Continue along Kingcombe Road to The Old Swan. Turn left down the hill and shortly, before the entrance to the railway line, you should spot the final weather vane on the brick garage of 2 Lower Road ⑥. Return to start.



*Toller Station from the road bridge 1959.*



*The railway line closed in May 1975 and the station building was taken down and rebuilt as the South Devon Railway's Littlehempston station near Totnes. As well as passengers, the station handled watercress for Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and Bolton, boxes for Kentish fruit markets and railway sleepers and wood from sawmills for collieries.*



**Toller Trails**  
**Walk 1 - Weather Vanes**

0 100 200 m

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## Walk 2 – Branch Line

<b>Distance</b>	1.1 miles (1.7 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	This is an easy short, there and back, flat walk suitable for young families with or without pushchairs and those looking for just a quick stroll. Keep an eye on young children (and dogs) on the railway bridge as the railings have gaps in them.
<i>Along the old railway line towards Maiden Newton. Look out for where the Hooke and Toller rivers join, the badger sett, the old linesman hut and the snaking of the river across the floodplain. On your return look for the pub sign on the end of The Old Swan.</i>	

① With your back to the noticeboard by the telephone box turn right and walk down the High Street towards the Old Swan and bus shelter ②. Turn right straight opposite the bus shelter on to a permissive path and after 20 metres ③ turn left and you will be on the old Maiden Newton to West Bay branch line.

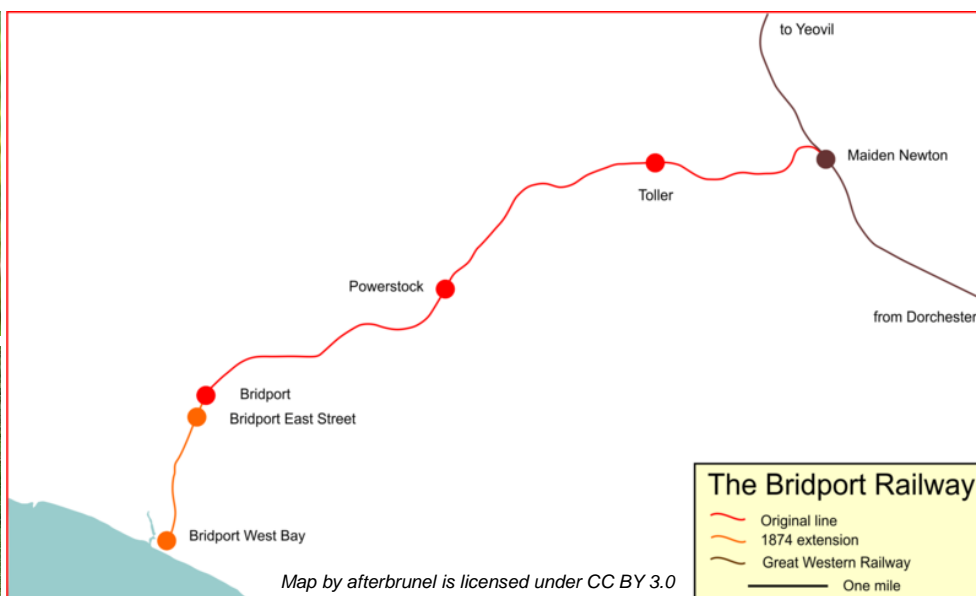
Follow the track for ½ a mile (800 metres) until you reach the old bridge crossing ④. The track does continue for about another 200 metres but at the point the permissive route ends so please go no further. At your leisure, retrace your steps along the track turning right at ③, left at ② and you will see the noticeboard 50 metres up the High Street on your left where you started.



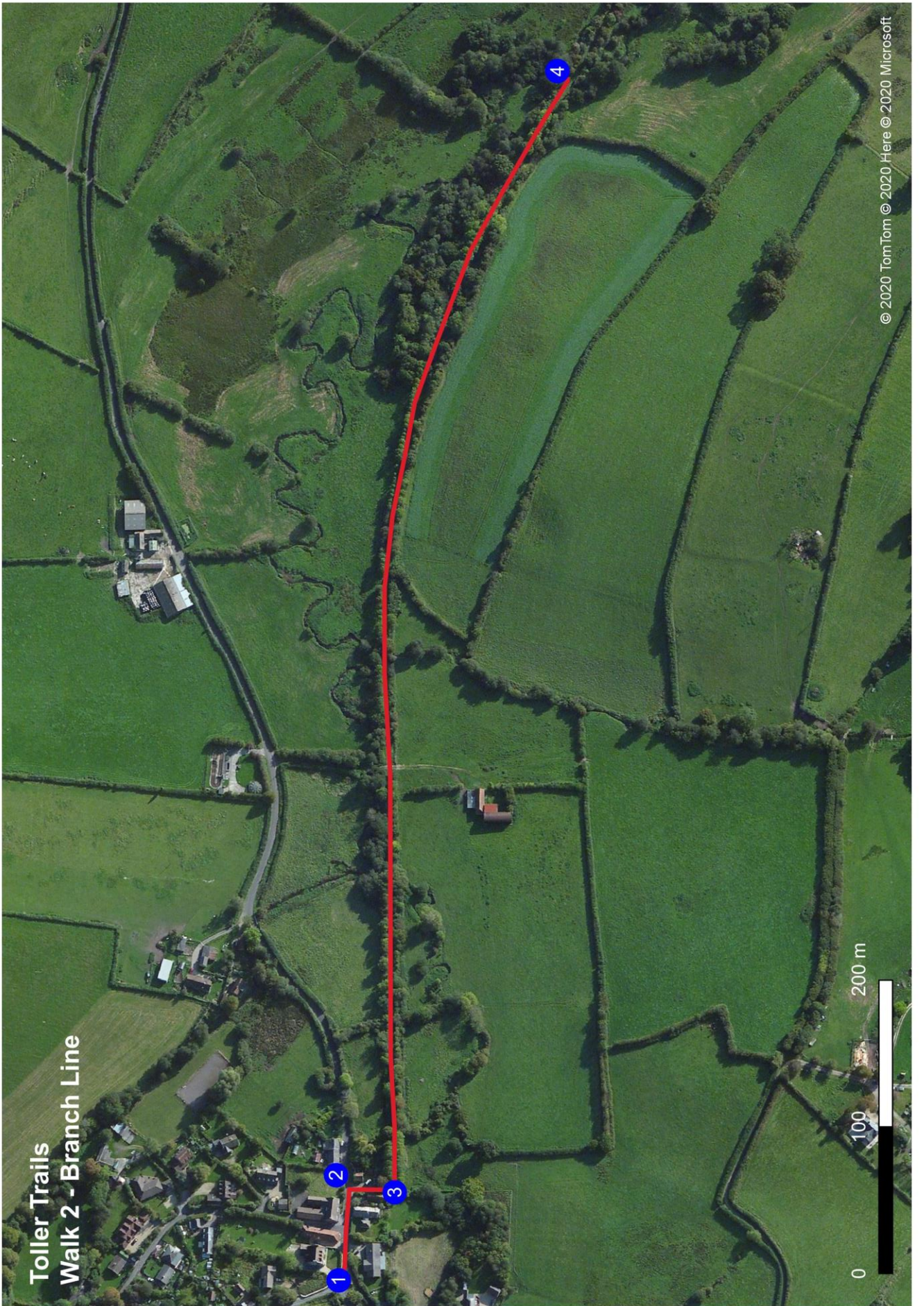
*The Bridport Railway connected Bridport with the main line at Maiden Newton. It opened in November 1857 and was later extended to West Bay.*

*The line was marked for closure in the Beeching Report but the narrow roads of the area and a subsidy from Dorset County Council kept it running. In 1971 the British Railways Board applied to close the line with annual losses of £54,000. Following a public enquiry, the Secretary of State for the Environment gave permission to withdraw the service and the line was duly closed on 5 May 1975.*

*[Sustrans](#) are working to re-open the whole route as a recreational trail*







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Toller Trails  
Walk 2 - Branch Line

## Walk 3 – Pope’s Hill

<b>Distance</b>	1.1 miles (1.8 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	Quite a long steep climb and descent, but on a hard surface all the way so no mud.
<i>Climb high above the village, a long steep climb and descent but your efforts will be rewarded. Choose a day with good visibility for this walk so you can see the sea! Do take binoculars if you have some.</i>	

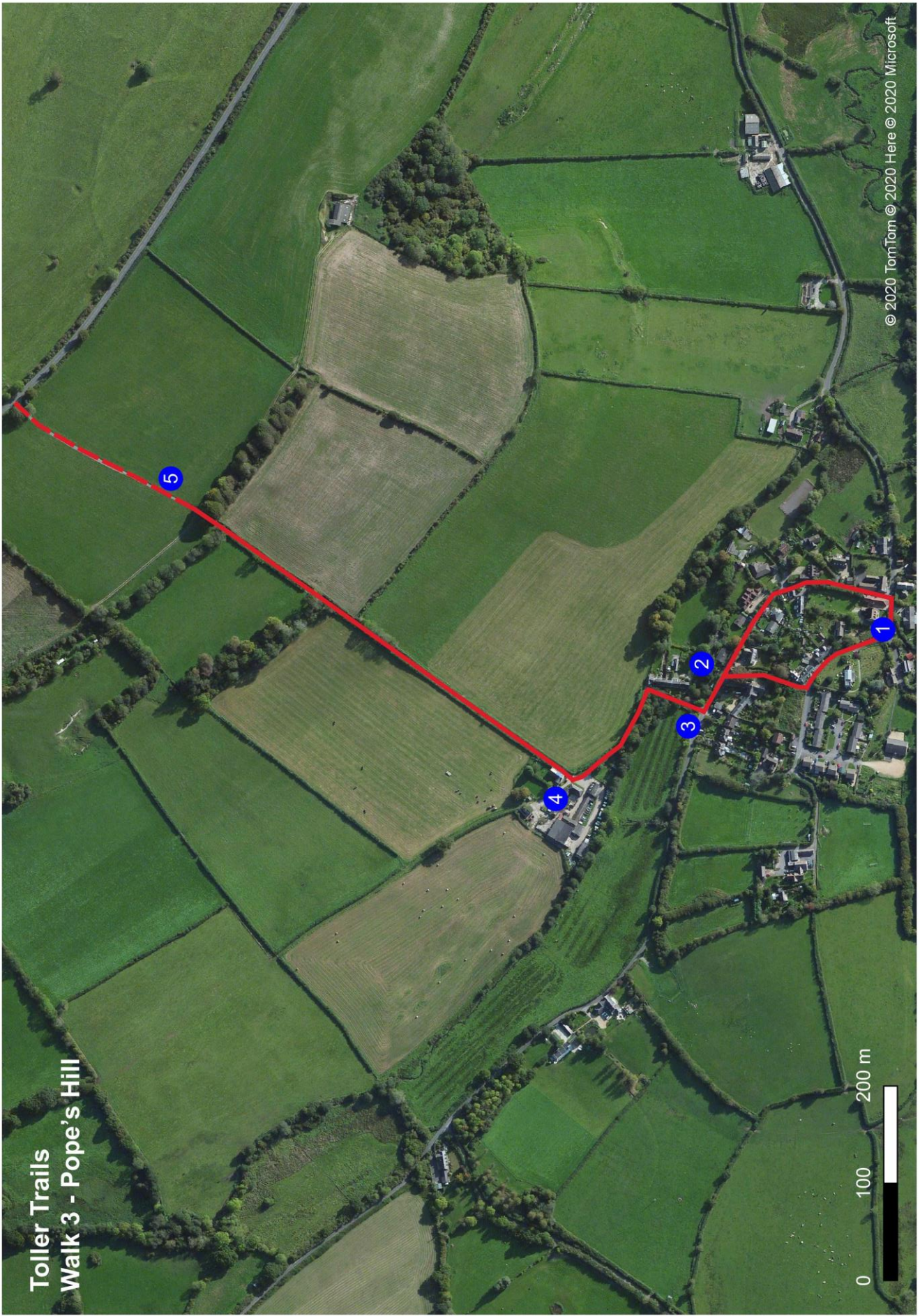
① With your back to the noticeboard by the telephone box cross the road to go up School Lane passing the Church on your left. Turn right down the byway after the large house “The Cottage” passing The Manor on your left. At the Kingcombe Road ② turn left briefly and then ③ right into the lane with a bridleway sign on a post. Cross over the river and then the mill stream as you pass The Old Mill on your right. After the bend in the lane you shortly reach the yard of Toller Farm ④ (NB wrongly marked on the OS map as Manor Farm). The gate across the lane may be closed outside of business hours but you may pass through as it is a public bridleway. At the far side of the yard is the old pottery. You can admire some of the works in the window. Turn up the hill passing the farmhouse on your left noting the hedge in front of it is cut with some animal shapes - topiary. Again, the gate may be shut but continue climbing up the hill on the concrete track, stopping to catch your breath and enjoying the views of the village behind you. Beware that this track is used by vehicles for the farm at times.

As the climb gets gentler you will reach a cattle grid ⑤ as the lane meets a field - there are cattle in it at times. From here enjoy the wide-ranging views. You will see high points including from left to right, Eggardon Hill, Thorncombe Beacon and Golden Cap - the highest point on the south coast of England.



You can turn here or stay on the track across the field to the main road before heading back down the way you came. On Kingcombe Road ②, rather than returning via the byway to the church, you can carry on to The Old Swan and your starting point.

Toller Trails  
Walk 3 - Pope's Hill



0 100 200 m

## Walk 4 – Towards the Mighty Oak

<b>Distance</b>	2.7 miles (4.3 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	A very varied walk, with one gradual climb and a sharp descent. The route includes 100 metres of the main road, though there is a verge that can be used. Part of the route can become a small stream in winter months, so wellies might be an option.
<i>Heading for The Mighty Oak you take in lovely fields and tracks. A climb is rewarded with far-reaching views, on a good day into Devon.</i>	

① With your back to the noticeboard by the telephone box cross the road to go up School Lane passing the Church on your left. Turn right down the byway after the large house “The Cottage” passing The Manor on your left. At the Kingcombe Road ② turn left briefly and then ③ right into the lane with a bridleway sign on a post. From here to point ⑦ you will follow part of the Jubilee Trail a long-distance footpath created in 1995 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ramblers Association. It runs from Forde Abbey on the Somerset border to Bokerley Dyke on Dorset's eastern border near to the intersection of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire.

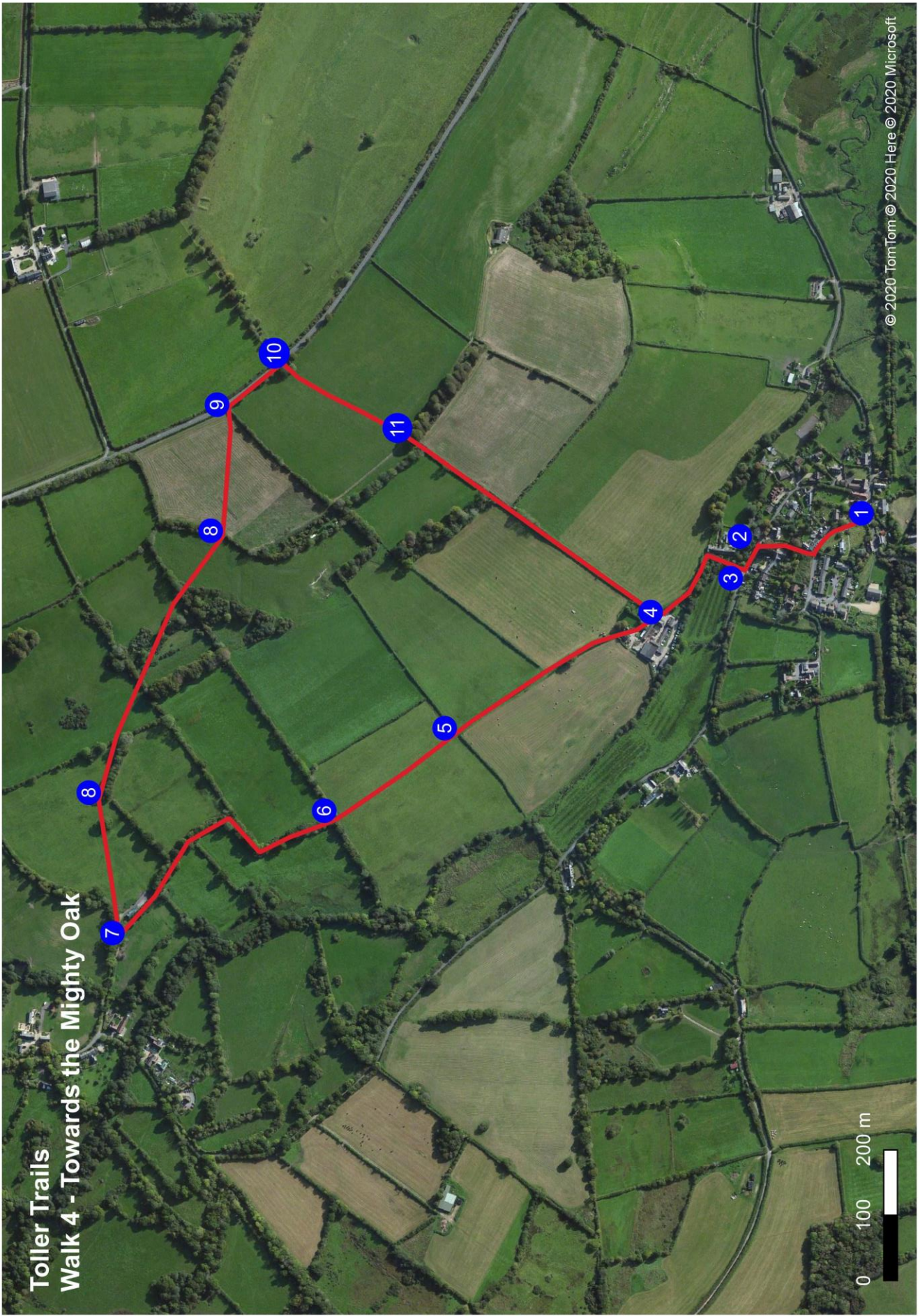
Cross over the river and then the mill stream as you pass The Old Mill on your right. After the bend in the lane you shortly reach the yard of Toller Farm ④ (NB wrongly marked on the OS map as Manor Farm). The gate across the lane may be closed outside of business hours but you may pass through as it is a public bridleway. At the far side of the yard is the old pottery. You can admire some of the works in the window. Continue on your original line between the farmhouse on your right and farm buildings on the left, heading for a metal gate in the corner of the yard.

Follow the track initially between hedgerows and then with a fence on your left until it ends at a steel gate and field ⑤. Go into the field, which can have cattle in, and head straight across to an old steel farm gate ⑥. From here the track in winter can become a small stream so wellies might be an option. Follow the track around several bends, ignoring a footpath on one corner until you come to a barn on your right. Just beyond the barn at track junction ⑦, bear hard right up a slope (not the stony, hedge-lined track) with the barn to your right, heading for a wooden gate and field beyond. You are now on part of the Wessex Ridgeway a 138-mile trail running from Marlborough to Lyme Regis. Go through the gate and you will see a large Oak tree half way up the field. Keep to the left of the tree and head for the top right corner of the field and a single wooden gate ⑧. Continue on the same line towards a gap in the hedge above the end of a line of Beech trees. Keep an eye out as deer are often in this area. Pass a wooden marker post and climb diagonally up the hill through scrub in an area known as The Rookery. You are aiming for a small wooden gate which is somewhat hidden in the hedge. Go through the wooden gate, which needs a good yank, out into a field.

From here enjoy the wide-ranging views in front of you. You will see high points including from left to right, Eggardon Hill, Thorncombe Beacon and Golden Cap - the highest point on the south coast of England

Head for a wooden farm gate, pass through and cross the field diagonally to its top-right corner ⑨. Open the gate and head out towards the main road. Keep on the right-hand side of the road being careful with any traffic. The verge is wide enough to step off the road should a vehicle approach. After 100 metres you will see the entrance to a farm track ⑩. Rather than going across the cattle grid, there is a pedestrian gate in the fence to its left. Farm animals can be in this field at times and vehicles may occasionally use the surfaced track. Follow it to a cattle grid ⑪ and staying on the track descend the hill back to Toller Farm ④. A gate in front of the farmhouse may be closed but proceed though it and note the hedge in front of it is cut with some animal shapes - topiary. From here retrace your steps ③②①.





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**Toller Trails**  
**Walk 4 - Towards the Mighty Oak**

0 100 200 m

## Walk 5 – Mount Pleasant

<b>Distance</b>	5.6 miles (8.9 km). Shorter version 4.3 miles (6.9 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	This is a fairly long walk and is all on the public highway. A shorter version can be made of it too. Gradients are reasonable for those used to regular exercise. Not suitable for families with young children. Note the road under Powerstock railway bridge is liable to flooding.
<i>A road-based tour of the Parish including Mount Pleasant and Higher Kingcombe. The road verges are delightful in the Springtime.</i>	

① From the noticeboard walk up the High Street over the railway bridge. Follow the High Street out of the village past the Post Office, Old Mills and Barton Farm on your right. Stay on the road once out of the village, with the entrance track to Colesmoor Farm on your left. The next part of the road has a steep gradient. At the top follow the road with the equestrian jumps (Bricky Farm) on your left and further on Trinneys Farm on your right. The road here starts to run downhill until it comes to Barrowlands crossroads ②. Turn right and head down the lane. In a short while you will come to the entrance, on your left, to [Dorset Wildlife Trust's Powerstock Common nature reserve](#) ③ just before you go under the old railway bridge. The road here during winter months and/or prolonged period of rain is liable to flooding and becomes impassable.

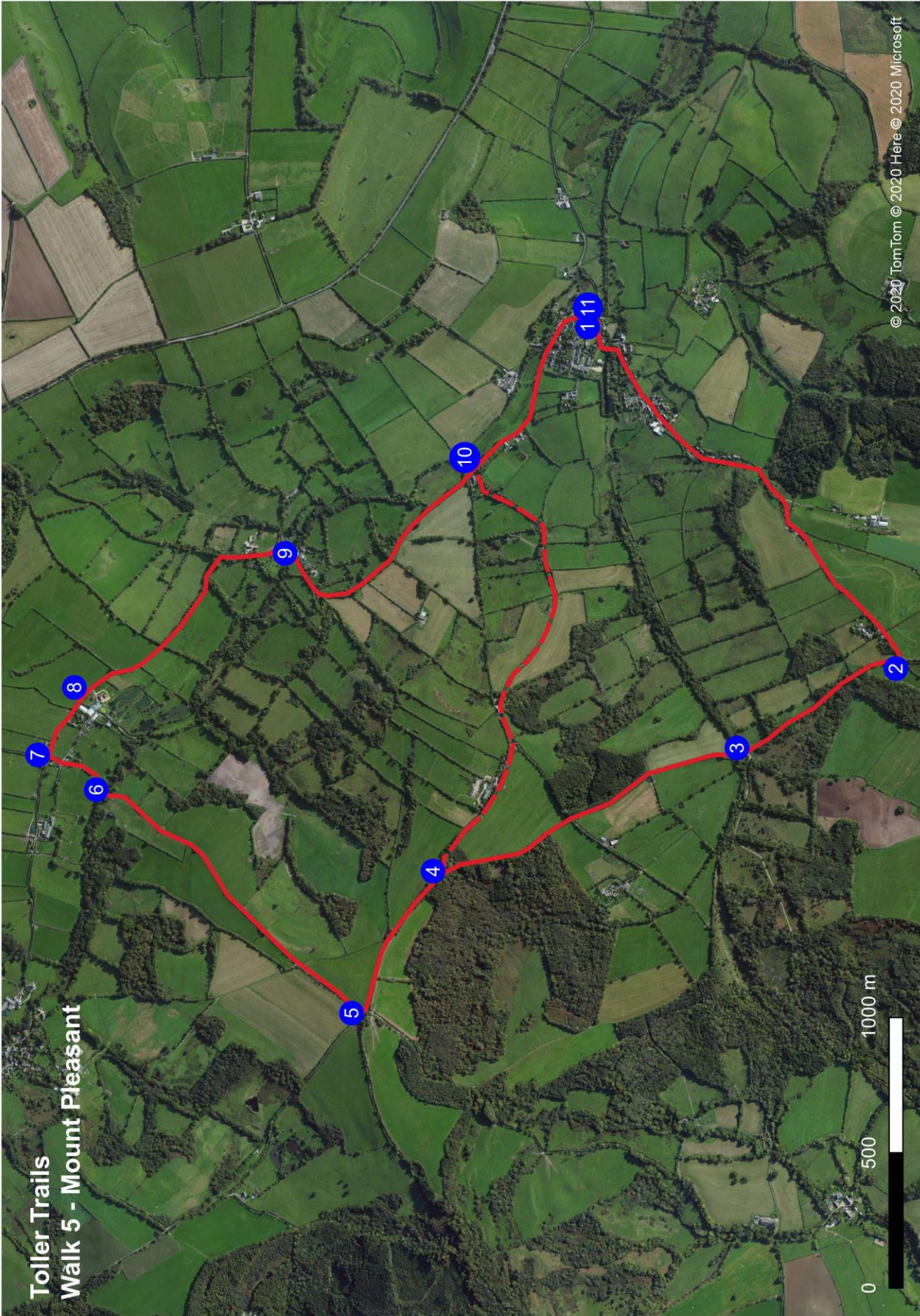
Follow the road gently uphill past the woods of Stone's Common on your right and past the entrance to Gray's Farm on your left until the road meets Clift Lane ④. *For a shorter version of this walk, turn right to follow Clift Lane past the kennels to re-join the route on Kingcombe Road at point ⑩.*

For the longer route, keep left and follow the road with its upward gradient through a wooded cutting. After a few hundred metres the views open up to the left towards Eggardon Hill, Shipton Hill, Powerstock and the coast near West Bay. To the right you can see the remaining masts at Rampisham and the hamlet of Higher Kingcombe. Follow the road to the five-point junction known as Mount Pleasant ⑤. Turn right into Common Lane and follow it down until it crosses the Hooke stream ⑥ and then the road slopes upwards more steeply for a few hundred metres until it comes to a crossroads ⑦. Turn right on to Kingcombe Road and follow the road back towards Toller Porcorum passing Higher Kingcombe Farm on the right with its fishery ⑧ and past the [Kingcombe Centre](#) on the left ⑨. Follow the road for another mile past Poorend and the bottom of Clift Lane on the right ⑩. Continue along Kingcombe Road into the village until you reach the T junction by the Old Swan ⑪. Turn right and the noticeboard at the beginning of your walk is 50 metres up on your left ①.



*There are 7 lakes at the **Higher Kingcombe Fishery** covering 5 acres (4 ½ football fields!). They are stocked with coarse fish - Carp (Mirror, Common & Ghost), Perch, Roach, Rudd, Bream and Tench. One lake has Carp to 31lb (over 14 kilos)!*

*The [Kingcombe Centre](#) is of course closed at the moment but usually runs workshops, courses and events for all - from painting workshops to storytelling for kids. It also offers accommodation if you have a surplus of guests and also has a self-service tearoom, an ideal reward for you on this walk or one on the [Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve](#). A visit to the reserve is like stepping back in time when all farms teemed with wildlife. The nature reserve is managed as a working farm, grazed by cows & sheep, without the use of pesticides, artificial fertilisers and other modern agricultural practices. The result is a patchwork of fields of unimproved flower-rich grassland, broken up by thick hedges, streams, ponds, ancient green lanes & wooded areas spreading up the valley either side of the River Hooke.*



**Toller Trails**  
**Walk 5 - Mount Pleasant**

## Walk 6 – Billen’s Stroll

<b>Distance</b>	1.5 miles (2.4 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	This is an easy summer walk on public rights of way and permissive paths. In the winter, during periods of prolonged rain, some parts can get muddy, so wellies are essential. There are no stiles on this walk, just gates but the woodland section is a little uneven under foot. A good part of the walk is across open farmland so please be aware of livestock and the occasional electric fence.
<i>Out across fields and back along the railway. A familiar route to many but always something to see – spring flowers in the woods, early summer wildflower meadows or autumn hedgerow fruit. Look out for Mr Miller’s Horse Chestnut Tree in field three.</i>	

① With your back to the noticeboard by the telephone box cross the road and go up School Lane passing the Church on your left. Keep going up School Lane and do not turn left into Church Mead. You will pass the playground on your left and the old school on your right. Go through the wooden field gate ② and walk straight across the field keeping the field hedge close to you on your right.

Go through the silver farm gate at ③ and head straight across the field to the silver pedestrian gate ④. Go through the gate, and cross two more fields with identical gates to ⑤. The second field in early summer is spectacular for its wild flowers.

Go through the gate and look slightly to your left and you will see a gap in the hedge line at the other side of the field ⑥. Go through the gap and immediately turn left and follow the field edge to the wooden farm gate at the bottom of the field marked ⑦.

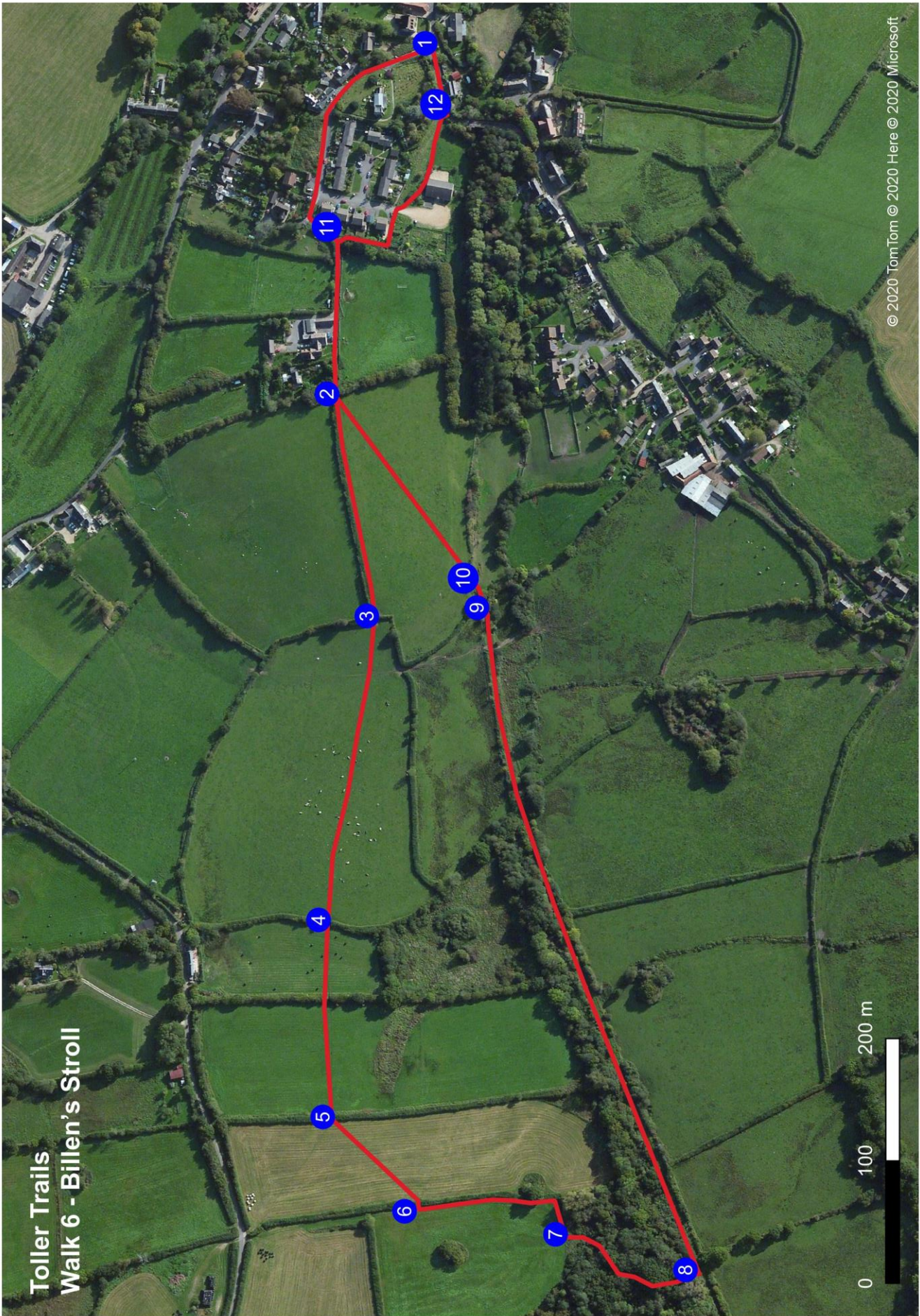
You will now enter a woodland area. The ground here is uneven, often wet and there are some low branches. Be careful of the broken plank on the boardwalk as you cross the River Toller and follow the rough path until you come to a pedestrian wooden gate ⑧.

Go through the gate and immediately turn left onto the old Maiden Newton to West Bay branch line, which has been closed since 1975. This track now takes you back towards Toller Porcorum. The old railway line fades out at ⑨ so bear left and go up the narrow path a short distance to a wooden field gate at ⑩.

Walk diagonally up and across the field, the first part is a little steep, until you arrive back at the wooden gate ②. Go back down School Lane with the old school on your left and the playground on your right. At point ⑪ as the road bends left, take the footpath on your right. Follow it behind the houses turning left now with the allotments on you right. Go across the village hall car park and take the path on the left-hand side of the hall until it joins the High Street just by the railway bridge ⑫. The noticeboard where you commenced your walk is 50 metres down on the right-hand side.







**Toller Trails**  
**Walk 6 - Billen's Stroll**

## Walk 7 – Kingcombe Meadows

<b>Distance</b>	3.6 miles (5.8 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	This is a reasonably long walk both on and off-road. The walk has both gates and stiles. It crosses farmland so beware of livestock and the occasional electric fence. It is requested that when crossing all Dorset Wildlife Trust land that dogs are kept on a short lead. Please look out for signs. Part of the route can become a small stream in winter months, so wellies might be an option.
<i>A lovely circuit with plenty of variety – cross fields and follow lanes to Dorset Wildlife Trust's Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve before returning via Lower Kingcombe on part of the Jubilee Trail.</i>	

① With your back to the noticeboard by the telephone box cross the road and go up School Lane passing the Church on your left. Keep going up School Lane and do not turn left into Church Mead. You will pass the playground on your left and the old school on your right. Go through the wooden field gate ② and walk straight across the field keeping the field hedge close to you on your right. Go through the silver farm gate at ③ and head straight across the field to a silver pedestrian gate ④. Go through the gate and then a second one taking you across two fields until you come to a third silver pedestrian gate marked ⑤.

Go through the gate and look across diagonally to your right you will see a wooden field gate taking you on to Cliff Lane ⑥. Pass through it and turn left on to Cliff Lane walking up the lane past Venery Kennels on the right and further on Kingcombe Meadows Farm also on the right. After passing the farm entrance carry on for about 200 metres where you will see a footpath sign on your right ⑦.

Go up the narrow path through the wooden gate into the field and turn immediately left (you are now on [Dorset Wildlife Trust's Kingcombe Meadows nature reserve](#)). Walk parallel with Cliff Lane keeping close to the gorse bushes on your left as you cross the field until you come to the far side ⑧ where you need to climb over a double set of stiles into a field.



Turn right and walk down the side of the field with the hedge line on your right passing through a field gate in the next field. Keep going across this field keeping the hedge line close to your right-hand side. You should see a large water trough at ⑨. Go straight through a further three wooden farm gates (two fields). After the third gate, the path turns slightly to the left and it starts going downhill at a reasonable gradient. Look out for the stone memorial on your right at ⑩ after about 200 metres.

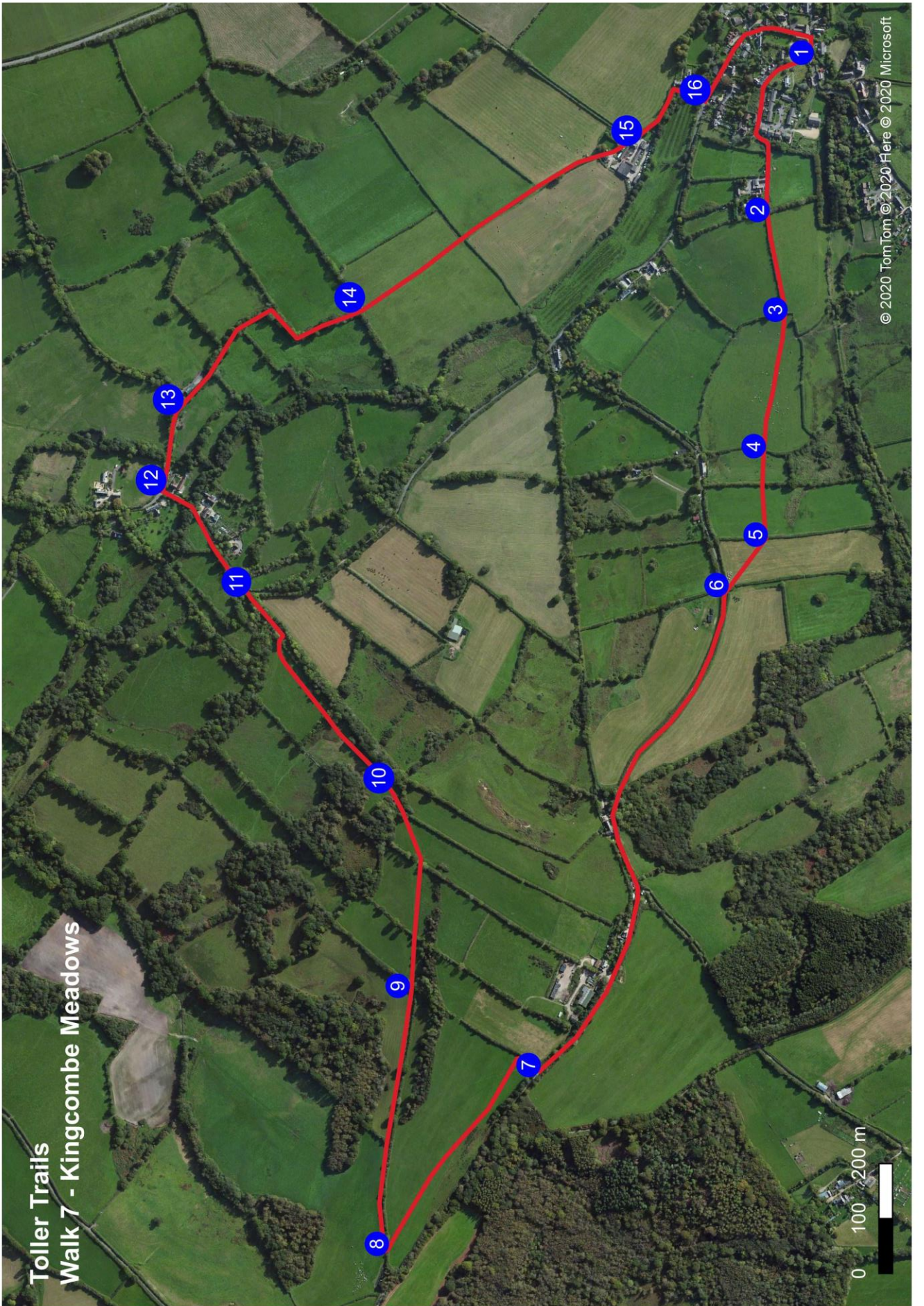
Go down the hill passing a small pond on your right until you come to a wooden farm gate which takes you out of the field and on to a narrow track. Follow this track until you meet Kingcombe Road ⑪. Go straight ahead and after about 150 metres on the right you will pass the [Kingcombe Centre](#). Go over the bridge and after about 100 metres turn right onto a bridleway ⑫.

Follow the bridleway for about 150 metres where it then forks left and right ⑬. Take the right fork. Keeping the barn on your left follow the track back towards Toller Porcorum until you reach an old steel farm gate ⑭. Between points ⑬ and ⑭ the track in winter months can become a small stream so wellies might be an option.

Go into the next field, which can have cattle in it, and head straight across to a silver farm gate on the other side. Go through the gate and follow an old track between fields, a hedgerow on your left and stock-proof fencing on your right. You will come to silver farm gate which takes you into Toller Farm farmyard ⑮ (NB wrongly

marked on the OS map as Manor Farm).

Go straight across the yard keeping the farmhouse on your left and the farm buildings on your left. Follow the road out of the farm (do not turn left and climb up Pope's Hill) turning right by Toller Mill and down to Kingcombe Road ⑯. Turn left onto Kingcombe Road and follow the road until the T-junction at the Old Swan ⑰. Turn right and the noticeboard where you commenced your walk will be about 50 metres on your left-hand side.



Toller Trails  
Walk 7 - Kingcombe Meadows

## Walk 8 – Towards Toller Fratrum

<b>Distance</b>	2.6 miles (4.2 km)
<b>Suitability</b>	There are no steep climbs with this walk but there are two areas which can remain muddy so appropriate footwear is needed. At certain times of the year several fields will have sheep with their lambs in them so dogs on leads is essential. All off-road routes are on public rights of way. This route has numerous farm gates and/or stiles. Some farm gates are often held up with rope and can be a little awkward.
<i>This route takes you through the little known Prestwood. This always has interest starting with Snowdrops, then Bluebells and other flowers. Deer are often seen here. Return via part of The Jubilee Trail.</i>	

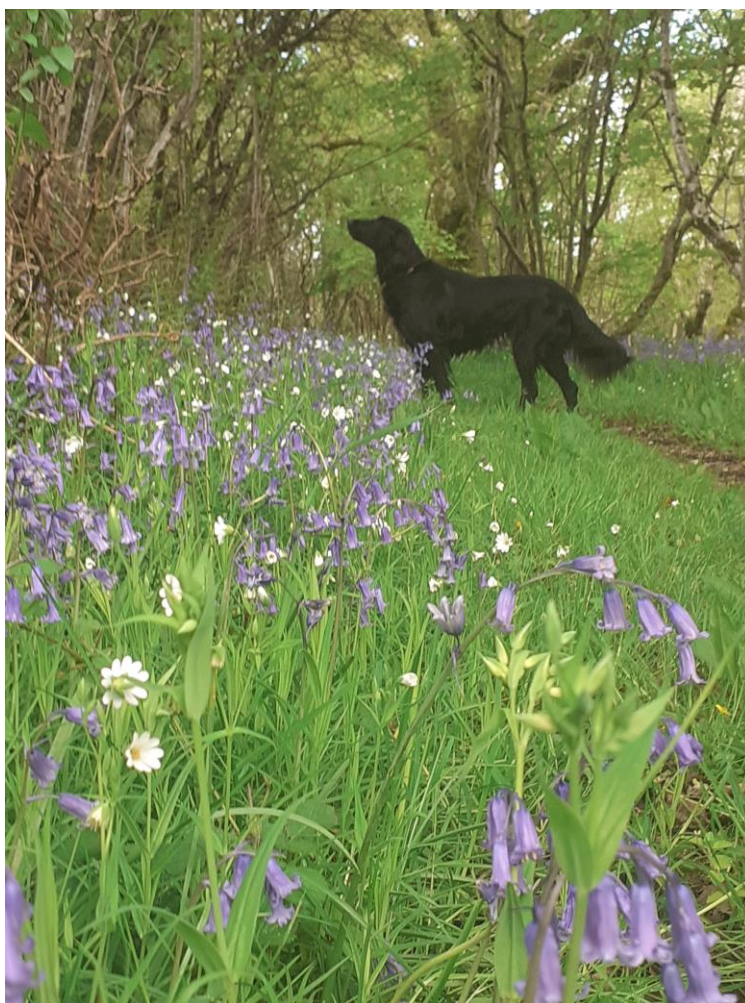
① Head up the High street towards the railway bridge and follow the High Street out of the village passing the Post Office, Old Mills and Barton Farm all on your right-hand side. After about 100 metres after the last house on your left-hand side there is a track dropping down towards a plantation ②.

Follow the track, signposted Toller Fratrum down towards the plantation. Do not go into the plantation but follow the narrow path on your left ③. Follow this path, which can be muddy and uneven, down to an old gate. Go through the gate across the stream and follow the track up to the next field gate. Deer are often in the wooded area so be quiet and you might see them. Enter the field via the farm gate, which often has sheep and lambs in it and keep to the far right of the field up to the corner ④. Turn around and you get a good view of the village down in the valley. Turn left here and follow the top edge of the field until you come to a farm gate ⑤.

Go through the gate and about 100 metres further on through a second farm gate into Prestwood. Snowdrops and then Bluebells are splendid here at the right times of year. The path can be muddy in places but keep going until you come to the other side of the wood where through an old bent farm gate you will find yourself coming onto a wide track ⑥. Follow the track as it goes downhill for about 350 metres where you will see a stainless-steel gate on your left just over a narrow bridge ⑦.

Go through the gate and across the field, which can have sheep in it, head for a double set of farm gates in the valley bottom straight in front of you ⑧ (to the left of a large Oak tree). These gates are often tied together so please re-tie them after you have gone through. Walk up the slope in the next field and you will see a single farm gate ahead of you ⑨. Go through the gate and head straight across the next field until you come to an old wooden stile ⑩. The next field which slopes downhill, has a stream at the bottom and often has sheep in it. Cross the footbridge at the bottom and through the old farm gate directly opposite ⑪.

Go through the stainless-steel kissing gate immediately on the other side into the next field. The right of way across this field goes through the hedge marked ⑫ at a stainless-steel kissing gate but the ground on the far side of this can be very muddy so you might, with care, want to go through the gates marked ⑬ and ⑭ passing Parsonage Barn on your left and out on to the old railway line. Turn left heading towards the village turning right at the end which brings you out by the Old Swan and bus shelter ⑮. Turn left and the noticeboard, where you commenced your walk is 100 metres ahead of you on your left.



**Toller Trails**  
**Walk 8 - Towards Toller Fratrum**

